

From: [L.A. Business Journal](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Subject: Morning Report: AT&T, DirecTV Merger Clears Final Hurdle | Sanctuary Cities Could Lose Funding
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[AT&T, DirecTV Merger Clears Final Hurdle](#)

Telecom giant AT&T's proposed \$49 billion acquisition of El Segundo satellite TV provider DirecTV has cleared its last regulatory step with at least three of the five commissioners with the Federal Communications Commission voting Thursday in favor of the deal but with conditions, according to sources, [CNBC](#) reports. In order to meet the conditions, which include measures to protect consumers, the FCC, may for the first time establish an independent monitor.

Posted: 7/24/2015

[Sanctuary Cities Could Lose Funding](#)

The House passed a bill Thursday to possibly cut funding to sanctuary cities, which are towns, including Los Angeles, that refuse to comply with federal immigration laws, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. The vote came after lawmakers debated how to respond to the killing of a San Francisco woman who by a felon who had been deported to Mexico five times but was free because of San Francisco's sanctuary city status.

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[Call to Reopen Angels Flight](#)

After some business leaders and history buffs made an appeal – and more than 1,800 people signed a petition – the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority board now says it will study a plan to possibly restore and reopen Angels Flight, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. It was closed a couple of years ago by state regulators.

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[Potholes Galore](#)

If you think the streets are bad, you're right. Los Angeles-Long Beach roads are second-worst in the nation (San Francisco and Oakland are first) with about 73 percent in poor condition. Southern California drivers are paying more than \$1,000 extra a year for blown tires and other maintenance costs as a result, according to a report released Thursday by a Washington, D.C., think tank, the [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) reports.

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[Fracking Dilemma](#)

Even though a company has state permission to start fracking off the coast of Long Beach, the California Coastal Commission has jumped in, saying it needs to give the company an additional permit, the [Long Beach Press Telegram](#) reports. However, some are questioning whether



the commission has the authority to make such a demand.

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[Anthem Seals Cigna Deal](#)

Anthem Inc. of Indianapolis has officially agreed to buy health care insurer Cigna Corp. for more than \$48.4 billion, which combines the second- and fifth-largest health insurers by revenue, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reports. The deal, which comes after a year of back-and-forth talks, still needs regulatory approval. It could close in the second half of 2016.

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[Reducing Carbon Emissions](#)

The top 100 power plants nationwide, including those run by power companies in the Southern California region, reduced their carbon emissions by a total of 12 percent from 2008 to 2013, according to a report released Thursday, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. Over the past couple of years, emissions have been flat but are expected to decline even more as power companies install pollution controls and retire coal-fired plants.

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[Transgender Modeling Agency to Open](#)

Caitlyn Jenner has apparently ushered in a trend as Thailand's Apple Model Management, a modeling agency that represents only transgender models, has announced it will open a Los Angeles office, the [Hollywood Reporter](#) reports.

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[Public Prank](#)

Who says your trip to the grocery store has to be boring? For those who shopped recently at a Vons location in East Los Angeles, it was anything but. Funny signs placed around the store ("Stay warm in the freezer aisle by rubbing against other shoppers"), thanks to the pranks of a local humor blogger, [LAist](#) reports.

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[Stocks Mixed](#)

The Dow Jones industrial average was down six points in Friday morning trading to 17,726. The S&P 500 was down one point to 2,101. The Nasdaq was up 12 points to 5,159. The LABJ Stock Index was up one point to 240.

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